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# ADDRESS

### *Delivered by the President, Professor A. Fowler, F.R.S., on the occasion of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Society.*

Our meeting to-day marks an important epoch in the history of the Royal Astronomical Society. It is, in fact, a hundred years since the first Annual General Meeting of the Society, and the report which has just been presented is the hundredth annual report of the Council. A fitting celebration of this event has been rendered impossible for the present by circumstances arising out of the war, but the question has become the subject of consideration by the Council, and their proposals will be announced in due course. It has been thought, nevertheless, that the occasion should not be allowed to pass by without some reference to the past, and by desire of the Council I shall take the opportunity of recalling briefly the events connected with the formation of the Society, and the ideals which were present in the minds of its founders. My task has been greatly simplified by the admirable records of the activities of the Society which are to be found in the minutes of the meetings of the Council and of the ordinary meetings, as well as in the earlier publications of the Society.

A consideration of the position of astronomy in the early years of the nineteenth century will show quite clearly that the founders of the Society were not actuated by any sudden impulse, such as might have been stirred by some unusual happening in the heavens. By the end of the eighteenth century the able successors of Newton had practically completed the investigation of the chief consequences of the law of gravitation, and the technique of observation was so far advanced as to have brought great refinement into the comparison of theory with observation. Astronomical tables had thus reached a high degree of perfection, and the places of the sun, moon, and planets could be predicted with sufficient accuracy for the important practical purposes of navigation and geography. Astronomy had, in fact, come to be regarded as the most perfect and complete as well as the most ancient of all the sciences, but indications are not wanting that this complacent view was tending towards stagnation of effort in what were then considered the more exact departments of the science. The period immediately preceding the foundation of our Society, however, had been far from unproductive in some directions. In particular, the branch of observational astronomy which aims at acquiring a knowledge of the construction of the heavens and of the physical nature of the celestial bodies, had been vastly extended by the labours of Sir William Herschel, whose brilliant discoveries could hardly have failed to stimulate

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a wide public interest in our science. Great improvements had also been made in the construction of optical instruments, and numerous amateur observers had been attracted to the systematic observation of celestial phenomena.

The founders of our Society would thus appear to have been influenced solely by a genuine interest in astronomy, and a desire to promote its development in this country. It was very natural that one of the first steps to this end should have been an attempt to establish an institution in which they might meet together in the way which had been found so beneficial in the case of other sciences.

The documents actually in the possession of the Royal Astronomical Society do not enable us to trace the history further back than 1820 January 12, on which day the formation of the Society was definitely resolved upon at a meeting which was held at the Freemasons' Tavern. There is no documentary record to show by whom this meeting was convened, but a fairly complete and probably trustworthy story of the events which led up to it is given in the obituary notice of the Rev. W. Pearson, which appears in vol. viii. of the *Monthly Notices* (1848).* While it is admitted that there is some uncertainty which could not then be cleared up, it was considered highly probable that the prime mover in the formation of the Society was Dr. Pearson. It is stated that "existing documents prove that he [Dr. Pearson] took steps to originate such an institution as early as 1812, and that in this laudable attempt he was assisted by Mr. Troughton, Dr. Kelly, and others, whom we find among our earliest and warmest supporters. In 1816 this proposal had taken so much consistency that Dr. Pearson, at the request of his coadjutors, wrote a preparatory prospectus and address, which were, he says, submitted to Lord Erskine, probably with a view to obtain his Lordship's countenance and influential aid."

The meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern is said to have been resolved upon at a dinner given by Dr. Pearson at East Sheen, and mainly at his suggestion. The writer of the obituary goes on to express his conviction that "the first proposal of an Astronomical Society proceeded from Dr. Pearson, that this proposal was kept steadily in view by him and agitated for several years: and that he was one of the earliest and most zealous members when it was actually constituted."

This account of the events which led to the establishment of the Society is substantiated in all essential details by a letter which was addressed to the President in 1865 by Professor de Morgan, who had joined the Society in 1828, and had for several years acted as Secretary.† Professor de Morgan was then in possession of well-authenticated copies of two letters, the originals of which had been in possession of Captain (afterwards Admiral)

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* Attributed to the Rev. R. Sheepshanks by de Morgan, *M.N.*, 26. Mr. Sheepshanks joined the Society in 1825.

† *M.N.*, 26, 18.

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Smyth, who had unfortunately never carried out his intention of writing an account of the foundation of the Society. These letters were probably the "existing documents" referred to above, but it is not known what became of them.

The first letter is from Dr. Patrick Kelly to Dr. Pearson, and is dated 1812 December 12. Referring to a forthcoming meeting of schoolmasters, he says: "It may be also a very auspicious time for us to lay some foundation for your suggestion respecting an *Astronomical Society.* I have mentioned it to two or three scientific gentlemen, who all approved very much of the idea: and one in particular, Mr. [Peter] Nicholson, thinks that under good management it might become of great importance to science." In a postscript Dr. Kelly adds: "If the *Astronomical Society* should ever become great, you must not forget that you are the *Father of it.* There are several eminent societies in town possessing inferior objects."

The second letter, dated 1819 December 13, is from Mr. (Sir James) South to Dr. Pearson, giving permission to add the writer's name to a list then in collection, and accepting an invitation to dinner, probably for the express purpose of discussing the proposed Society.

As de Morgan points out, Dr. Pearson thus appears to have kept the plan in his mind from 1812 to 1819, and he adds that his own recollection of what was said in 1830 strengthened the surmise that Dr. Pearson never lost sight of his favourite project, and made a continuous effort to carry it into effect throughout the intervening period.

The claims of Francis Baily to be considered the founder of the Society are scarcely second to those of Dr. Pearson. That Baily was keenly alive to the need for such a Society is indicated by his remarks on the subject in a translation of a paper by Cagnoli, which was printed privately in 1819,[*] namely:—

> "It is much to be lamented that in this country there is no association of scientific persons formed for the encouragement and improvement of astronomy. In almost all the other branches of the arts and sciences, institutions have been formed for the purpose of promoting and diffusing a general knowledge of those particular subjects . . . the beneficial effects of which are too evident to be insisted on in this place. But astronomy, the most interesting and sublime of all the sciences . . . , cannot claim the fostering aid of any Society. . . . The formation of an *Astronomical Society* would not only afford this advantage, but would in other respects be attended with the most beneficial consequences. . . ."

Some of the surviving original members who had been consulted in 1848 by the writer of the obituary notice of Dr. Pearson

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[*] Memoir on a new and certain method of ascertaining the figure of the earth by means of occultations of the fixed stars, by A. Cagnoli; with notes and an appendix by Francis Baily, London, 1819.

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were under the impression that Mr. Baily had the principal share in the actual foundation of the Society. There is certainly much internal evidence of Baily's management, and it is clear that he was one of the chief agents in promoting its constitution and development. The writer of the notice goes on to say that: "But though it may appear clear that, from the first attempt at a union, Mr. Baily took that share of the actual details which he never relinquished, it must not be forgotten that Dr. Pearson was the first to whom it suggested itself that a Society for the promotion of Astronomy was needful and practicable, and was the first who attempted to impress that conviction upon others."

The memorable meeting of 1820 January 12 was called "to take into consideration the propriety and expediency of establishing a Society for the encouragement and promotion of Astronomy." The names of those present are duly entered in the minute-book, and we may well recall them with gratitude to-day. They were:—

Charles Babbage.
Arthur Baily.
Francis Baily.
Captain Thomas Colby.
Henry Thomas Colebrooke.
Olinthus G. Gregory.
Stephen Groombridge.
J. F. W. Herschel.
Patrick Kelly.
Daniel Moore.
Rev. William Pearson.
James South.
Charles Stokes.
Peter Slawinski.

The agreement which was then drawn up and signed by all who attended the meeting does not seem to have been preserved, but it is copied in the minute-book, in Baily's handwriting, and reads as follows:—

> "At a meeting held this twelfth day of January 1820, at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, to take into consideration the advantages that are likely to result from the establishment of a Society for the cultivation of astronomy,—we whose names are hereunto subscribed, being fully aware of the utility of such an Institution, do hereby mutually agree to constitute ourselves a Society, to be called the Astronomical Society of London: and to be guided in our future proceedings by such rules and regulations as may be framed for such Society, in the manner to be appointed at the present meeting for that purpose."

Mr. Baily was appointed secretary *pro tempore*, and a committee was appointed to draw up the regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the Society. This committee was further charged with the preparation of an Address explanatory of the views and objects of the Society, and to circulate it as they might think fit.

The Address, which is printed at the beginning of the first volume of our *Memoirs*, will command the admiration of everyone who reads it.* It sets forth, in dignified language, the useful

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* There is a little confusion as to the authorship of the Address. In his memoir of Baily (1844), Sir John Herschel states that "the draft of our rules

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objects which might be accomplished, and the impediments which might be removed, by the formation of a Society devoted solely to the encouragement and promotion of astronomy. No better summary of the objects of the original members could be given than that with which the Address concludes, namely: "To encourage and promote their peculiar science by every means in their power, but especially—by collecting, reducing, and publishing useful observations and tables—by setting on foot a minute and systematic examination of the heavens—by encouraging a general spirit of inquiry in practical astronomy—by establishing communications with foreign observers—by circulating notices of all remarkable phenomena about to happen, and of discoveries as they arise—by comparing the merits of different artists eminent in the construction of astronomical instruments—by proposing prizes for the improvement of particular departments, and bestowing medals or rewards on successful research in all—and finally, by acting as far as possible, in concert with every institution, both in England and abroad, whose objects have anything in common with their own: but avoiding all interference with the objects and interests of established scientific bodies."

The first general meeting of the newly constituted Society was held at the rooms of the Geological Society in 1820 February 8, thus establishing our present custom of holding the Anniversary meetings in the month of February. In consequence of the death of His Majesty, King George III., the only business done was the adoption of the Regulations,* and the meeting was adjourned to February 29. Twenty-eight members were then present, and the minutes record the following list of the first Officers, Council, and Trustees of the Society as the unanimous choice of the meeting:—

*For President.*

His Grace the Duke of Somerset.

*For Vice-Presidents.*

Henry T. Colebrooke, Esq.
Stephen Groombridge, Esq.
Sir William Herschel.
John Pond, Esq., Astronomer Royal.

*For Treasurer.*

The Rev. William Pearson, LL.D.

*For Secretaries.*

Charles Babbage, Esq.
Francis Baily, Esq.
John F. W. Herschel, Esq. (Foreign).

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and the first Address explanatory of our objects, circulated at the commencement of our existence, were entirely, or in great measure, prepared by him." On the other hand, the writer of the obituary of Dr. Pearson (1848) states that the Address was written by Sir John Herschel, "who recollected that Dr. Pearson was active in pressing this duty upon him."

* *Memoirs*, 1, 9–20.

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*For the Council.*

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| Col. Mark Beaufoy. | Thomas Harrison, Esq. |
| Cap$^{\text{n}}$. Thomas Colby. | Daniel Moore, Esq. |
| Dr. Olinthus G. Gregory. | Edward Troughton, Esq. |

*For Trustees.*

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|---|---|
| Arthur Baily, Esq.<br>Daniel Moore, Esq.<br>Charles Stokes, Esq. | With the Treasurer for the time being. |

During the first year of its existence, however, the Society was actually without a President, as the Duke of Somerset withdrew his name before the first ordinary meeting and no other appointment was made until the following February. In a letter to the Council of 1820 March 10, the Duke of Somerset explained, with reference to the last paragraph of the Society's Address, that as Sir Joseph Banks apprehended the ruin of the Royal Society, he felt himself obliged to resign the "flattering hope" of connecting his name with the labours of the Astronomical Society, and that he was under the necessity of withdrawing from the list of members. There is no comment upon this letter in the minutes, and no record of any further action having been taken in the matter. At the same meeting of the Council a letter from Mr. John Fulton was also read, stating that he did not mean to belong to the Astronomical Society, because it did not meet with the approval of Sir Joseph Banks.

It is possible that these letters may throw some light on the difficulties which had been experienced by Dr. Pearson in carrying out his plans for the formation of our Society. They suggest that there may have been some influential opposition to the constitution of additional scientific societies: but any hostility there may have been did not long survive actual experience. In their report to the first annual general meeting in 1821 February 9, the Council were highly gratified to note a reciprocity of feeling on the avoidance of all interference with the objects and interests of other established scientific bodies, which had been expressed "from the chair of the most eminent scientific institution which this or any other country can boast." Another President of the Royal Society—Sir Humphry Davy—had come into office in 1820 November, and his sympathy with the work and aims of the Astronomical Society was further revealed in a letter to the Council in 1821 June 1, in which he returned thanks for an account of the proceedings of the Society which had been sent to him, "in which," he said, "every lover of science must take a strong interest."

The lack of a President, however, was not allowed to interrupt the plans of our founders. The first ordinary meeting of the Society was duly held in 1820 March 10, and others followed on the second Friday of each month throughout the session. So far as can be gathered from the records, the general procedure at these

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meetings was not unlike that with which we are all familiar in our own days, but the delights which were derived from the novel opportunities for friendly intercourse are left to our imagination.

The first paper presented to the Society was, very appropriately, one by Dr. Pearson, bearing the title "On the Doubly-refracting Property of Rock Crystal, considered as a principle of Micrometrical Measurements, when applied to a Telescope." Succeeding papers during the first session were not very numerous, but they covered a considerable range of subjects, and were of a character well calculated to enhance the importance and reputation of the Society.

It is not my purpose on the present occasion to attempt to trace in detail the history of our Society further than the first year of its existence, but there are some other matters to which it may be interesting to make brief reference.

I cannot pass without mention the election of Sir William Herschel as the first President of the Society at the first annual general meeting in 1821 February 9. The veteran astronomer was then 82 years of age, and there is no record of his having been present at any meeting of the Council or of the Society. His name, however, shed a lustre upon the Society that will never be effaced, and some indication of his interest in its welfare may be found in the fact that a few months before his death he paid the usual composition fee "in lieu of his future annual payments." Sir Wm. Herschel was succeeded in 1823 by Henry Colebrooke, who was in turn followed successively by Francis Baily in 1825, Sir John Herschel in 1827, and Sir James South in 1829.

Successive annual reports of the Council during these early years show an unbroken chorus of congratulation on the progress, efficiency, and prospects of the Society, and give ample evidence of loyal and untiring efforts to fulfil the purposes for which the Society had been constituted. The membership, including associates, of whom Biot was the first to be elected, steadily rose from 119 in February 1821, to 224 in 1825, and to 277 in 1830. The financial state of the Society was happily never a cause for anxiety, partly because extraordinary expenditure had been in great measure met by the generous voluntary contributions of the members.

The award of medals for distinguished work in astronomy, as proposed in the original Address of the Society, commenced in 1824, when gold medals were awarded to Babbage and Encke, and silver medals to Rümker and Pons. In these early years of the Society's activity, it will be observed, medals were bestowed comparatively freely, but always with great discretion, and never unworthily; and the list of medallists includes some of the most illustrious names in the history of astronomy. The further effort of the Council to encourage the consideration of subjects which might otherwise be neglected, by the award of medals and prizes for the best solutions of definite problems which had been proposed by them, was a source of disappointment. No answers were

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received before the specified periods had expired, and in 1828 the proposal of prize questions was abandoned.

The early publications of the Society took the form which has been essentially retained up to the present time. In the first instance, the communications received by the Society were withheld from publication until the end of a year or session so as to form a complete volume, when they appeared as the *Memoirs* of the Society. The disadvantages of this procedure, however, were soon felt, and in 1827 arrangements were finally made for the prompt publication of a series of monthly notices which should contain abstracts of papers, and reports of the proceedings of the Society, while the more complete papers would continue to appear in the *Memoirs.* Our *Monthly Notices* thus came into being, and the new arrangement was found to be of special advantage as providing a suitable means of disposing of matters of temporary interest, such as notices of approaching phenomena, ephemerides of comets, and so on, which did not call for publication in the *Memoirs.* The *Monthly Notices* made their appearance very modestly at first, but gradually grew in relative importance, so that at the present time they include a majority of the papers communicated to the Society.

The estimation in which the early work of the Society was held was expressed by Sir George Airy in his report to the British Association in 1832 on the progress of astronomy during the nineteenth century, where he said that " Astronomy in England has undoubtedly received a strong impulse from the institution of this Society, and the four volumes of *Memoirs* which it has published contain some of the most valuable contributions to astronomy that any country has yet produced."

The question of soliciting a Charter of Incorporation was raised as early as 1825. It was already felt that such an application would be justified by the stability and proved usefulness of the institution, and that a more complete consolidation of the Society would thereby be effected. The first definite step of which there is any record, however, was the Council's decision, in 1830 February 26, that it was expedient to procure a Charter, provided the expense could be defrayed without trespassing on the funds of the Society. A "Charter Committee" was appointed forthwith, and within three months the sum of £382, 18s. had been subscribed.* A petition was duly prepared, but its presentation was deferred until steps had been taken to secure the interest and patronage of His Majesty King William IV. The signature of the King, as Patron of the Society, was inserted in the autograph book in 1830 December 15, and at the meeting of the Society in the following month the change of name from "The Astronomical Society of London" to "The Royal Astronomical Society" was announced by the President, no doubt with becoming pride.

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* This sum sufficed to cover all expenses connected with the Charter, and left a balance of £129, 18s. 10d., which, by resolution of the subscribers, was added to the general funds of the Society.

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The Charter was graciously signed by the King in 1831 March 7, and thenceforward the members of the Society became "Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society."

All that now remained for the complete satisfaction of the Society was suitable accommodation, where the members might enjoy the benefits of mutual intercourse and of the use of their library and instruments. In the infancy of its existence, it is recorded, the expenses of the Society were very trifling, owing principally to the liberal spirit exhibited by the Geological Society in granting the use of their rooms, then in Bedford Street, Covent Garden, for the meetings. For this service we shall not fail to retain the due and grateful remembrance which is impressed upon us in the first report of the Council.

In 1820 November the Society removed to Lincoln's Inn Fields, where accommodation had been hired in the apartments of the Medical and Chirurgical Society. The facilities thus provided appear to have given but little satisfaction; but despite continuous attempts during several years to find a more convenient and more permanent home, especially for the rapidly accumulating collections of books and instruments, it was not until the autumn of 1834 that the use of rooms at Somerset House was granted by the Government, chiefly through the efforts of Baily. There the Society was housed until the removal to our present commodious and handsome apartments at Burlington House in 1874.

I shall not now attempt to trace the further history of the Society. To-day we honour the memory of the men who devoted themselves so earnestly and effectively for the foundation of our Society a century ago, and especially of William Pearson and Francis Baily. Each of them belonged to the great body of amateurs to whom British science owes so great a debt, and each faithfully served the institution which they had helped to bring into being.

Dr. Pearson, it may be recalled, was the first Treasurer, and held the office for ten years. His account-books have long disappeared, but beautifully made copies were recently discovered in the library of the late Dr. Lee of Hartwell; and these have been presented to the Society by Mrs. Lee.

Dr. Pearson was an accomplished and zealous observer. His first observatory, equipped with some of the finest instruments then obtainable, was at East Sheen, where he was proprietor of a large preparatory school. In 1817 he was presented to the rectory of South Kilworth, Leicestershire, where he permanently resided after 1821, and carried on his astronomical work with the aid of an assistant. The first volume of Pearson's imposing work, *An Introduction to Practical Astronomy*, was published in 1824, and was dedicated to "The President, Vice-Presidents, and Members at large" of the Astronomical Society. The second volume, containing descriptions and illustrations of instruments, appeared in 1829, and was appropriately dedicated to his friend Edward Troughton, who had done so much for the improvement of

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astronomical instruments in this country. For this work Pearson received the Gold Medal of the Society from the hands of Sir John Herschel, who described it as one of the most important and extensive works on the subject which had ever issued from the press. On his death, the remaining copies of the book, which had been published at the author's expense, were bequeathed to the Society, but none now remain. There is no portrait of Pearson in the possession of the Society, but an interesting relic remains in a small clock of peculiar construction,* with features of astronomical interest, which he presented to the Society. He was in his eighty-first year at the time of his death in 1847 September 6.

Francis Baily was Secretary during the first three years, and upon him devolved the chief labour of organising the work of the Society. He was four times President for the usual two-yearly periods, eleven times Vice-President, and until finally prevented by illness he was never absent from a meeting of the Council or of the Society, except in 1836 May 12, when he was away in Scotland to witness an annular eclipse of the sun. In his earlier life Baily was engaged in business as a stockbroker, in which he earned a high reputation and a considerable fortune. He finally retired from business in 1825, when he was 51 years of age, and devoted himself wholly to astronomical pursuits, among which the development of the Astronomical Society was one of the chief. As de Morgan said of him: "Baily was from the very first the guide and stay of the Society, an institution which many might have founded, but few could have nursed."

Baily was less of an observer than Pearson, but his name will be perpetuated in connection with the phenomenon of "Baily's Beads," which he first observed during the annular eclipse in 1836 May 15. He was especially diligent in the collection and reduction of observations, and received the Gold Medal in 1827 for the preparation of the Society's catalogue of 2881 stars.† The improvement of the *Nautical Almanac* in 1829 and the compilation of the *British Association Star Catalogue* ‡ were mainly due to his personal efforts. He rendered a valuable service also by his revision of ancient catalogues of stars.§

Baily's name will also be long remembered for his laborious repetition of the Cavendish experiment for the determination of the mean density of the earth, towards which the Treasury made the liberal grant of £500. A valuable relic of his labours in another direction is the tubular standard scale which is still in the possession of the Society. His portrait by Phillips, presented by Fellows of the Society, hangs in the council-room.

Baily himself could have desired no finer memorial than the memoir written soon after his death by Sir John Herschel, and read at a special general meeting of the Society in 1844 November 8.‖

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* This clock is described by Dr. Pearson under "Dial," and is illustrated under "Horology," in Rees' *Encyclopædia*.

† *Memoirs*, 2.

‡ Published in 1845.

§ *Memoirs*, 4.

‖ *M.N.*, 6, 89.

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We find the names of nearly all the other original members in the early lists of officers, council, and trustees, and to them also we are greatly indebted for the services they rendered in the infancy of the Society.

The last survivors of the band of men who launched the Royal Astronomical Society were Sir John Herschel and Mr. Babbage, who died within a few months of each other in 1871. They were among the original officers of the Society, and it is a striking fact that not less than fifteen of our present Fellows were elected before they passed away. Our oldest Fellow, Mr. W. B. Gibbs, was elected so long ago as 1857, and has informed me that he remembers having attended at least three meetings at which Sir John Herschel was present, and having on one occasion entered into conversation with him. We can scarcely avoid the conclusion, taking account also of other evidence, that an interest in astronomy is eminently conducive to length of life.

Enough has been said to show that the foundations of our Society were well and truly laid. The purposes for which we are associated are fundamentally the same to-day as they were a hundred years ago, and the regulations originally devised, with modifications in detail rendered necessary by changing conditions, continue to govern our procedure. The work which was commenced so well by our founders has been worthily carried on through succeeding generations, and the Society continues to occupy an honoured place among the scientific institutions of the world.

It remains for us to strive, individually and collectively, to maintain the great traditions of the past, so that in future years we may not be deemed to have been unworthy of our great inheritance.

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## *Election of Officers and Council.*

The Meeting then proceeded to the election of Officers and Council for the ensuing year, when the following Fellows were elected:—

### *President.*

ALFRED FOWLER, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Astrophysics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington.

### *Vice-Presidents.*

Sir F. W. DYSON, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., Astronomer Royal.
A. S. EDDINGTON, Esq., M.A., M.Sc., F.R.S., Plumian Professor of Astronomy, Cambridge.
Major P. A. MACMAHON, D.Sc., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S.
H. F. NEWALL, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Professor of Astrophysics, Cambridge.

### *Treasurer.*

E. B. KNOBEL, Esq.

### *Secretaries.*

A. C. D. CROMMELIN, Esq., B.A., D.Sc.
Rev. T. E. R. PHILLIPS, M.A.

### *Foreign Secretary.*

H. H. TURNER, Esq., D.Sc., D.C.L., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Astronomy, Oxford.

### *Council.*

A. E. CONRADY, Esq., Professor of Optical Design, Imperial College, South Kensington.
J. L. E. DREYER, Esq., M.A., Ph.D.
J. W. L. GLAISHER, Esq., Sc.D., F.R.S.
JOHN JACKSON, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.
HAROLD JEFFREYS, Esq., M.A., D.Sc.
H. S. JONES, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.
F. A. LINDEMANN, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Experimental Philosophy, Oxford.
E. W. MAUNDER, Esq.
W. H. MAW, Esq., LL.D.
J. W. NICHOLSON, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics, King's College.
JOHN H. REYNOLDS, Esq.
Lieut.-Col. F. J. M. STRATTON, M.A., D.S.O.